(a) whether Government are modernising the statistical system in the country to suit the present conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the status of computerization of statistical system in each State; and

(d) the assistance given by Government to each State in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP) was formulated with the assistance from the World Bank for strengthening of Indian Statistical System with primary focus on strengthening of State Statistical System. The ISSP has a 2-Tier approach for its implementation. Tier-I consists of four components, namely: (i) Creation and Maintenance of Business Register, (ii) Improvement of Service Sector Statistics, (iii) Strengthening of State Statistical Bureaus, and (iv) Assessment of Survey Capabilities of Private Sector. The Tier-I is expected to be completed by December, 2007.

(c) Most of the States have not fully computerized the statistical system. Tier-I I of the project is proposed to be on strengthening of State Statistical Bureaus, which includes infrastructure development of the State Statistical Bureau including computer network.

(d) No assistance has been given to any State for computerization of State Statistical System.

Kochi Metro Rail Project

1917. SHRI THENNALAG. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request to start Kochi Metro Rail Project; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala propose to implement an elevated light metro system in Kochi over

a length of 25.3 km between Alwaye and Petta at an estimated cost of Rs. 1966 crores on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis. The State Government was advised to adopt a technology-neutral bidding process.

Under the scheme of financial support to Public Private Partnerships in infrastructure, the State Governments are expected to submit their proposals for Central Financial assistance in the form of Viability Gap support to the Ministry of Finance which is the nodal Ministry for the scheme. No such proposal has been submitted by the State Government so far.

Corruption in DDA

1918. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether if is a fact that the Chairman of Policy Determination Committee has recently observed that DDA is most corrupt agency in Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even the topmost officers of DDA are aware of the extent of corruption but find themselves helpless in the matter; and

(c) whether Government have ever made an assessment of areas of functioning by DDA where its officers and staff indulge in corruption and the possibility of time bound computerized work and fixation of responsibility without the personal contact of applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No such observation has come to the notice of the Ministry.

(b) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that corruption cases in DDA are dealt with firmly and criminal cases and disciplinary proceedings are instituted wherever found necessary. A number of measures have also been taken for improving transparency in the functioning of DDA and preventing corruption.

(c) Various measures have been taken from time to time to increase the transparency and reduce scope for irregularities or corruption in DDA. Facilitation counters have been established for helping citizens in their